

★ news release

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MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION AUTHORIZES NEW NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE IN NEW JERSEY AND ADDITIONS TO NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA REFUGES

A new 4,924-acre National Wildlife Refuge for New Jersey, plus an addition of 4,497 acres to Erie National Wildlife Refuge in Pennsylvania and 190 acres on New York's Long Island, were approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission in Washington, D.C. June 6.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, commission chairman, said the addition of 9,611 acres to the National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, has significant value to waterfowl of the Atlantic Flyway.

"Destruction of valuable coastal marshes by dredging and filling emphasizes the need to bring such areas under public protection," Udall said. "Establishment of the new Barnegat National Wildlife Refuge in Manahawkin and Barnegat Bays in New Jersey will preserve a large expanse of salt marsh with a long history of waterfowl use. These marshes are also part of an estuarine system important as nursery grounds for fish and shellfish."

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company has offered to lease its Manahawkin Cable Station consisting of 2,385 acres of salt marsh and low ground, to the Federal Government for \$1.00. The remainder of the refuge, 2,539 acres, will be purchased.

The 4,497-acre addition to Erie National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Pennsylvania will almost double the size of this refuge established in 1959. The addition, to be known as the Seneca Division, is 12 miles north of the existing refuge area. State and federal biologists rate it a "highly potential" waterfowl area. After initial development consisting of water control structures and farming for supplemental food production, it will become an important resting and feeding area for migratory waterfowl. It is also expected to produce about 2,000 ducks and geese annually.

The 190-acre area on Long Island is adjacent to the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge on Great South Bay along Long Island's south shore.

Total approved costs for the three refuge areas are \$1,591,776. Funds for acquisition come from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps.

Members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission are Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, chairman, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Commerce Alexander B. Trowbridge, Senators Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska and Lee Metcalf of Montana, and Representatives Frank M. Karsten of Missouri and Silvio O. Conte of Massachusetts. Ex-officio members of the Commission on June 6, representing states where acquisitions were approved, were: Lester G. MacNamara, director of New Jersey's Division of Fish and Game; Glenn L. Bowers, executive director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission; and Albert Hall, assistant director of New York's Division of Fish and Game.

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